

## YBSA Monthly Report September, 2007

Black Rock Approval Coming: About 16 months from now the Storage Study will be presented to Congress. YBSA will have to work with a new President and Congress to get approval for construction of Black Rock. Because it's a critical time, we need to increase our efforts to gain additional support for the adoption of Black Rock as the preferred project of the Storage Study. YBSA needs to generate enough capital to gather the expertise to present our position.

Rally for the Rock II: Rally for the Rock II will be held at the State Fair Room – SunDome in Yakima, WA Friday, October 19, 2007 from 7:00 to 9:00 am; a complimentary breakfast will be served. The program will include: timeline to construction, the most up to date information on the project, the responsibilities of all stakeholders, the risk of a “no action” alternative, and how it will affect the economy and future of our basin.

Pump-Storage is Valuable: The Bureau of Reclamation concluded that engineering and economic factors do not justify inclusion of a pumped-storage feature as an option to the Black Rock Project. The Bureau did not take into consideration climate change and the future need for power generation in our region. See Sid Morrison's letter attached.

Hanford Cleanup Failure: The Yakima Herald-Republic editorial, “Hanford Cleanup Failure Befouls Worthy Project”, points out the need to move forward with the Black Rock Project. The seepage report by the Bureau of Reclamation states some concern about ground water movement within the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. YBSA believes the groundwater movement needs to be addressed. YBSA is working with the Bureau to develop a plan to mitigate the seepage problem. See editorial attachment.

Black Rock Seepage Presents Enormous Opportunities: The Bureau of Reclamation has the knowledge and ability to neutralize or reduce the hydrologic pressure on groundwater. The seepage is additional water that can be used for industrial, agriculture, and for new development in the area. Water is very valuable in Central Washington. The water can also be pumped back to the Columbia River or to the Yakima River for reuse. Mitigation of seepage is a small portion of the cost of the Black Rock option.

Columbia River Policy Advisory Group Presentation: Sid Morrison and Chuck Klarich attended the Columbia River Policy Advisory Group meeting to present the values and benefits of the Black Rock Project. The large group meets monthly to develop plans for beneficial use of Columbia River water for both instream and out of stream flows with no net loss.

Black Rock is a water exchange program that meets those goals. The information presented included benefits to fish, instream flow, water for irrigation, and municipal and industrial use.

Black Rock is needed to offset possible climate change, and to better manage water remaining in the Yakima Basin for fish. This project will return the water that was drawn from the Columbia River back to the Columbia full of fish.

A few questions were asked after the presentation. Sid gave a positive answer to all questions and concerns. He emphasized that YBSA's goal is to make Black Rock a restoration and Salmon Recovery Project.

The group was very receptive and could see the value of Black Rock.

YBSA Website: YBSA new website is being hosted by Benton REA and is operational. The site will be updated weekly. If you have questions contact [klarichj@charter.net](mailto:klarichj@charter.net). You can access the site at [ybsa.org](http://ybsa.org).

Tour of Irrigation Projects: Warren Dickman, YBSA Board Member, participated in the annual tour of irrigation projects in the Yakima Basin. The projects included the Wapato diversion dam being modified to help control future water episodes and repairs of the fish ladder. The tour also included stops at the Sunnyside and Roza equalizing sites which will help conserve water. YBSA supports water conservation.

DIP: YBSA testified in favor of the adoption of the Detailed Implementation Plan which was developed to continue to implement the recommendations in the Yakima River Basin Watershed Plan. The Board of Commissioners from Benton, Klickitat, and Yakima Counties approved the plan.

Fair Booth: YBSA will have a booth at the Central Washington State Fair. It will be located in the SunDome. Stop by to gather information and show your support for the Black Rock Project. If you are interested in helping in the booth stop by or contact us and let us know.